RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 6th September, 1990/

15th Bhadra, 1912 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the Clock. **Mr. Chairman** in the chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Closure of Tea Board Offices Abroad

*401. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to close down all the offices of Tea Board functioning abroad;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereror; and

(c) what will be its impact on the export of tea ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) and (b) To rationalise the functioning of the foreign offices of Tea Board, Government have decided to close down Tea Board's overseas offices at Sydney, New York, Brussels, Cairo and Kuwait.

(c) There will be no impact on exports.

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : चेयरमैन महोदय, मैंने यह क्वेश्चन किया था । whether Government have down all the offices . . .' I do not know whether these were the offices operating or there were any other offices. I would like to know this from the Minister.

जो जवाब मंत्री महोदय ने दिया है और इसमें दोनों में कंट्राडिक्शन मुझे लगता है । इन दोनों लाइनों में आपने कहा है :

'To rationalise the functioning of the foreign offices of Tea Board, Government have decided to close down Tea Board's overseas offices....'.

जब बंद ही कर दिया तो उसको रेशनलाइज कैसे कर रहे हैं । रेशनलाइज करने का मतलब मैं समझता हूं उसकी सर्किट कमेटी को ठीक करना । आप उसको घटा रहे हैं या बढ़ा रहे हैं ? जो आफिसेज क्लोज कर दिये हैं तो how do you rationalise it ? I would also like to know since when these offices were operating in those foreign countries.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, as general economy measure and also for streamlining and rationalising, the BBIL, the Bharat Business International Limited, was formed as an organisation to spearhead our export efforts. In the Commerce Ministry, besides the Tea Board, we also have the Trade Development Authority, the TFAI and many other organisations including the Marine Development Board and we have several offices abroad. So, to coordinate the activities better, to ensure better marketing, we have shut down nearly 12 offices abroad of various organisations and many activities are being merged together. Now, for the future, it is the Bharat Business International Limited which will be really operating all the Tea Board offices. They will be doing the marketing. As far as the staff is concerned, all the foreign-based staff is being relieved and Indian-based staff will be taken over by the BBIL. The BBIL, in addition to the other marketing activities, will also include tea in their operation. Now I can give the hon. Member the statistics of each office, the number of people, the cost involved and the rest of it. But the main point here is that by rationalisation what I mean is, by this process we want to consolidate the overall marketing efforts.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : अगर आपके जवाब में बी.बी.आई.एल. का डिस्क्रिप्शन होता तो शायद यह क्वेश्चन न उठता । आप लिख कर स्टेटमेंट ले कर देते तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहता । आपने बी.बी.आई.एल. का जिक्र किया तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि जो आफिसेज आपके अब्राड में काम कर रहे हैं क्या वे सारे बंद कर दिये गये हैं ?

श्री सभापति : उन्होंने बताया है कुछ बंद किये हैं ।

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, I can give all the details.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His question is very simple. (*Interruption*).

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : In answer to the first supplementary, I have mentioned to the hon. Member that we are coordinating activities. In many places where you had four offices, you have shut three down and you have one office. Where we have two offices, we have shut one down. We are not scaling down our offices, but we are rationalising and BBIL will be handling the marketing for various organisations. There is no sense in having duplicate set-up to do the same thing.

श्री हरवंन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मैंने पार्ट "सी" में यह पूछा था कि दाट बिल बी इट्स इम्पेक्ट आन दी एक्सपोर्ट आफ टी । आपने उत्तर में कहा कि दियर बिल बी नो इम्पेक्ट आन एक्सपोर्ट । मैं समझता हूं कि इसका मतलब यह है कि यह घटेगा नहीं और हम एक्सपेक्ट करते हैं, इसको रेशनेलाइज करने से टी का एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ना चाहिए । इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस रेशनलाइजेशन से जो हमारा फारन एक्सचेन्ज बाहर खर्च होता था, क्या वह टी बोर्ड के आफिसेज और दूसरे आफिसेज के बंद करने से घटेगा ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, I estimated the tea exports last year which were Rs. 900 crores; this year we expect them to be Rs. 1,050 crores. Now I am not saying that the existing offices were not doing any work. They were doing a lot of work. But, as I said, this is a process of rationalising, it is time to improve our market effectiveness in the future. There is no doubt that five or six offices have done a lot of good work. I am not saying for a moment that they have not done, but the fact is that we need a more effective change and what we also do is to economise whatever we can, like on the Tea Board and the staff; by rationalising we will save Rs. 3.5 crores. The same thing will go into the field of direct marketing by BBIL.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, like the length of ladies' skirts which keeps going up and coming down according to the fashion of the day....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is a limit.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The Government seems to oscillate between two extremes, between one concept and the other ....

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Sir, I object to the simile. It is very impolite, not appropriate and undelicate. He may use some other simile.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a common saying. That does not apply to Indian conditions.

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : इनको कहना चाहिए चंद्रमा जैसे घटता और बढ़ता है वैसे ही सरकार का बजट भी घटता बढ़ता है ।

श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा : मैं बजट की बात नहीं कर रहा हूं ।

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : फारन आफिस की बात कर रहे हैं ... (**व्यवधान**) ।

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा : हिन्दुस्तान से संबंधित बात कर रहे हैं तो ऐसा उदाहरण नहीं होना चाहिए .. (**व्यवधान**) ।

श्री सभापति : यहां तो जैसा का तैसा ही रहता है ।

श्री कमल मोरारका : फारन की महिला के बारे में यशवन्त जी का मतलब ... (**व्यवधान**) ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Madam, in this country ladies use *sarees*. He is talking of foreign countries where skirts are used. So skirts can go up and down. What is worng there ?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : You are an old veteran Parliamentarian. You should not say that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, it is said, ladies' fashions may change but the designs remain the same.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The point I was making is that the Government seems to oscillate between one concept and

the other concept. The first concept is that specialised agencies and specialised effort relating to one commodity, one product, will lead to better results in export promotion. The other is combine everything under one umbrella, set up one huge office which will promote tea, which will promote cashew and which will promote everything else and that is a better concept. Now with the setting up of the BBIL and closing down of these offices, I take it from the Minister's reply that the functions which are being performed by the Tea Board offices are now transferred to the BBIL offices. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is whether we have finally reached a conclusion that export promotion on a multi-product basis under one umbrella, one office abroad, is a better concept than specialised offices relating to a specific product which is the practice which we seem to have followed in regard not only to tea but various other products.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, we are very clear on the concept that the marketing promotion should not be left to individual products because once you are marketing abroad, there are a lot of infrastructural facilities and there is a lot of commonalty. There are four or five organisations within the Commerce Ministry and everyone seems to be doing the same functions.

Now, the decision for BBIL is final. There is no question of second thinking on this. The other aspect which we have to see, particularly in regard to tea, is that very often we have been concentrating on marketing of bulk tea. Bulk tea is not where the future lies. The future lies in value-addition, in packed tea, sachet tea and the rest of it. The real marketing is being done through airlines, through hotel chains, through advertising agencies and companies abroad and that can be best handled by a larger organisation which is dealing with a multi-group of products. Also BBIL is helpful; it helps us to sell our tea. It is helpful for counter-trade arrangement also because it is handling a very large mix. If you see the Tea Board offices, each office is really manned by two or three people and they are contact offices. Now, one individual can do the same functions at a reduced cost.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : I am thankful to Shri Yashwant Sinha that he has reminded all of us about the Government oscillating between two extremes. And though the honourable Minister has stated that they do not have that concept of trade promotion on commodity basis. Still there are commodity based concepts; export promotion councils are formed on the basis of commodity concept. There are foreign officials under the Ministry of Commerce. Anyway, the Minister has stated two approaches—to rationalise the work and to economise. Even though it may help the Government to rationalise, I don't think the other part—to economise—will yield any result; it may be self-defeating. The Minister himself said that BBIL will take over the employees working in the offices which are to be closed down...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He said the Indian employees will be taken over and not those who are foreign.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Very good; foreign staff, foreign nationals, who are employed in those offices—in order to dispense with the services of those foreign nationals, according to that country's rules, they have to be paid compensation in foreign exchange. And that he knows; a huge amount of money is involved in dispensing with their services....

MR CHAIRMAN : What is your question ?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : It may be self-defeating. I can give one figure. The offices which are to be closed down include, among others, Brussels, and Brussels' total budget is Rs. 86.05 lakhs including Rs. 23.64 lakhs as special promotion for value-added teas. And the overhead expenditure is Rs. 43.96 lakhs. This office is going to be closed. In view of the reply given in para 6 that there will be no impact on exports, I can expect that the expenditure on account of export promotion, that is Rs. 23.64 lakhs, will be as it is, will be spent. The only saving or economy that has to be done will be out of Rs. 43.96 lakhs and also in respect of foreign staff who are to be dispensed with the foreign nationals are to be dispensed with compensation. Local laws are there in regard to their compensation. You cannot dispense with them as in India.

There i. no rule 5 or Article 311(2)(c) in those countries that you can dispense with somebody's service by giving one month's pay. Another thing is I was expecting that the Minister will correct his reply. The Ministry of Commerce have already made out a plan whereby a section of the Indian staff will not be taken over by the BBIL...

MR. CHAIRMAN : They must have calculated all that.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : ... and instead, they will be sent back to India. On their being sent back to India there will be a chain reaction in their principal offices in India. There will be reversions, there will be retrenchment, if it be necessary; naturally. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Minister will kindly assure us that there will be no fall-out of this plan on the staff structure of the principal offices of the Tea Board in India.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, first of all, as far as Brussels is concerned, I would like to correct the figures. We have a total staff of eight people there and the expenditure is Rs. 60 lakhs and we will be saving Rs. 60 lakhs because it is all on the staff, those who are employed there.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : What about compensation ? Will compensation be given ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, as far as compensation is concerned, the Tea Board and the other organisation, BBIL, are sitting together in working out the figures. I do not have the exact figures because this is a matter which is still being discussed between the two organizations. But we do not think that the figure will be sizeable. What we are talking about is the recurring saving of Rs. 3 crores a year. We are talking of five or six places and Brussels is one of the places where there are no India-based staff, but foreign-based staff. It is all foreign-based staff.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : What about those in Brussels ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Let me complete my answer. Wherever there are India-based staff, on the basis of rationalisation in the new organisation, I have said that we will not retrench everyone. Now, if we do not have an office in Brussels, the same person will be transferred to a place wherever a post arises. Now, Sir, we cannot rationalise and make changes, as you know, without any person being transferred from one place to another.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His point is whether, as a result of this there will be any retrenchment.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : No, Sir. As far as the BBIL is concerned, there will be no retrenchment.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : What about reversions ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Of course, there will be changes because people will be transferred and we cannot stop and we cannot operate on that basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. His point is whether, as a result of this, you will be downgrading some people.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : No question of downgrading. As I said earlier, the two organizations are discussing this issue and we do not want to create any human problems... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Just a minute. The point is that India-based staff who have gone to those offices have gone on promotion to those posts created in those offices. Now, if those person are sent back to India, there will be a chain reaction. My point is that there will be a chain reaction. What are you going to do about it ? Those who have gone have gone ...

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : These are all matters which are being discussed.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : ... on deputation to those offices... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will see that there is no retrenchment or downgrading ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : These matters are under discussion already. Let the discussions be over and then we will analyse the situation and see what should be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Question No. 462.

Completion of Godavary and Krishna Valley Projects

*402. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :

SHRI JAGESH DESAI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what are the on going projects of Godavary and Krishna Valley in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the financial arrangements for these projects; and

(c) what is the time schedule of their completion ?

वस्त्र मंत्री साथ में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री शरद यादव) : (क) विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जा रहा है । **(नीचे देखिए)**

(ख) राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सिंचाई परियोजनाओं का वित्त पोषण अपने बजट संबंधी संसाधनों के अन्तर्गत किया जाता है । कर्नाटक में अपर कृष्णा परियोजना चरण-1 महाराष्ट्र में जयाकवाडी परियोजना चरण-1 और 2 तथा आन्ध्र प्रदेश में श्रीराम सागर और श्री सेलम दायां तट नहर परियोजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन के लिए विश्व बैंक सहायता की भी व्यवस्था की गयी है ।

(ग) सभा पटल पर रखे गए विवरण के कालम 3 में सूचना दी गयी है ।

विवरण

गोदावरी तथा कृष्णा बेसिनों में महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक तथा आन्ध्र प्रदेश में निर्माणाधीन अनुमोदित परियोजनाओं का विवरण

क्रम सं.	परियोजना का नाम	पूरा होने की संभावित तारीख
1	2	3
	(क) गोदावरी बेसिन	
1.	**महाराष्ट्र**	
(क)	**बृहद परियोजनाएं**	
(1)	जायकवाडी परियोजना चरण-1 और 2	आठवीं योजना
(2)	अपर गोदावरी	आठवीं योजना
(3)	लोअर त्रिना	आठवीं योजना
(4)	विष्णु पुरी	आठवीं योजना
(5)	अपर पेनगंगा	आठवीं योजना के बाद
(6)	अपर वर्धा	आठवीं योजना के बाद
(7)	पेन्च	पूरी हो गई है
(8)	कालीसरार	आठवीं योजना
(9)	अपर परावारा	आठवीं योजना के बाद
(10)	नन्दूर माधनेश्वर	आठवीं योजना के बाद
(11)	लोअर दुधना	आठवीं योजना के बाद
(12)	मन्जरा	पूरी हो गई है